

31 May 2017

The Hon Simon Birmingham MP  
Minister for Education and Training  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

### Education Funding

I write to request that you fully fund the Gonski needs-based model.

The 2011 Review of Funding for Schooling or Gonski Review report identified a disturbing decline in performances of Australian students across a range of indicators when compared with international standards. The review showed that there is a growing disparity between the highest performing students and the lowest performing students. The report linked this performance gap to lower educational advantage, with students from lower socioeconomic and Indigenous backgrounds over represented in this group.

To address these imbalances and declining standards, the review recommended a national needs-based and sector-blind school funding model. The new funding model provided a base funding level to all schools with additional resources to target disadvantaged students in order to remove inequities and minimise the identified gaps.

There is community concern that the current Commonwealth Government plan means that schools and students cannot rely on adequate funding, which will lead to inferior results for those students most in need and further widen the educational achievement gap.

I ask that the Australian Government honour your pre-election commitments to fully implement the national needs-based Gonski plan to improve equity across Australian schools.

***Could you please fully fund the Gonski needs-based funding plan and inform me what action you will take?***

Yours sincerely

Alex Greenwich  
Member for Sydney

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